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Agency EPA 335



EPA Environmental News

Contact: Ray Germann
(215) 597-9871
85-110, July 30, 1985

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

EPA CONTINUES CLEANUP AT UNITED RIGGING AND HAULING

PHILADELPHIA, PA - - The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and the State of Maryland have approved the expenditure of \$200,000 to continue cleanup of the United Rigging and Hauling Superfund Site, Beltsville, Prince George's County, Maryland.

EPA and the State of Maryland will hold a press briefing on site at 1:00 p.m., July 31, just before commencement of site operations.

The additional allocation will allow for the removal of 50 transformers containing PCBs (polychlorinated biphenyls) owned by the Electrical Equipment Corporation, Lorton, Virginia, and transportation of the transformers to a federally approved hazardous waste facility. Electrical Equipment Corporation has notified EPA that it is not financially capable of undertaking the cleanup.

Thus far, EPA has spent approximately \$250,000 to control off site migration of PCBs and determine the impact of contamination on a nearby tributary of the Indian Creek and soil on site.

EPA and the State of Maryland are nearing an agreement with Potomac Electric Power Company (Pepco) and United Rigging and Hauling (United) under which Pepco and United would remove the remaining transformers on the site and excavate and remove contaminated soil.

United States
Environmental Protection
Agency

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EPA Environmental Advisor

Contact: Bob Chadwick
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85-67, May 10, 1985

NOTE TO CORRESPONDENTS

BACKGROUND ON EPA ACTIONS AT UNITED RIGGING AND HAULING IN BELTSVILLE, MD

PHILADELPHIA, PA - - The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency allocated \$50,000 this week to assist the State of Maryland in controlling and stabilizing PCB contamination at the United Rigging and Hauling Company on Ammendale Road in Beltsville, Maryland.

There are approximately 760 transformers on the site, some containing polychlorinated biphenyls (PCBs). PCBs have leaked into soil on the site and also into a nearby tributary of Indian Creek. EPA will be sampling soil and water on and off the property to determine the extent of contamination. They will also be controlling the migration of PCBs from the site and cleaning up any of the substances in culverts and storm drains leading from the property.

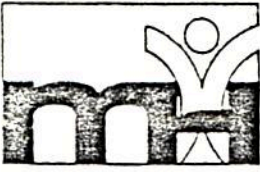
The Maryland Department of Health and Mental Hygiene notified EPA of the site because of the potential danger of direct human contact with the PCB's. The State has been sampling soil at the site, with results showing levels of PCBs present that are substantially higher than the 50 parts per million which is EPA's level of concern.

EPA's Regional On-Scene Coordinators are authorized to utilize the Superfund for emergency removal actions costing up to \$50,000. This delegation permits Regional staff to respond immediately to situations that require immediate action

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NEWS RELEASE

201 West Preston St.
Baltimore, MD 21201

State of Maryland Department of Health and Mental Hygiene

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Lynn B. Guttenberger, Chief
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STATE ORDERS CLEAN-UP OF PCB CONTAMINATION

The Maryland Department of Health and Mental Hygiene and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) have signed a Consent Order with the Potomac Electric Power Company (PEPCO) and United Rigging and Hauling Company to complete the clean-up of PCB contamination at the United Rigging facility in Beltsville, Maryland.

The agreement requires PEPCO and United Rigging to incur the responsibility and costs of cleaning up the site at 6701 Ammendale Road, where more than 700 PCB contaminated transformers have been stored.

The Health Department and the EPA have determined there may be "imminent and substantial endangerment to the public health or welfare or the environment due to the release, or threat of release, of hazardous substances" from the 10 acre site.

Clean-up of the site is to begin immediately and should be completed within 12 weeks. Cost of the clean-up is estimated at \$2 million.

"We are pleased that the potentially responsible parties are willing to undertake the expeditious clean-up of this site," said Ronald Nelson, Director of the Waste Management Administration. "The State Health Department will closely monitor the clean-up effort to assure that all environmental and public health issues are adequately addressed."